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PROVIDING THAT THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA., SHALL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF GEN. WILLIAM CRAWFORD GORGAS

AUGUST 24 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL, from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 306]

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to whom was referred the bill (S. 306) to provide that the Veterans' Administration hospital being constructed at Birmingham, Ala., shall be named in honor of Gen. William Crawford Gorgas, having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The sole purpose of the bill is to name the Veterans' Administration hospital being constructed at Birmingham, Ala., in honor of the great American soldier, doctor, scientist, and sanitarian, Gen. William Crawford Gorgas, a native son of Alabama.

General Gorgas, Surgeon General of the Army in World War I, well deserves this tribute for his everlasting contributions to the health and welfare of all the peoples of the world. His persistent and successful efforts in developing techniques for destroying the breeding places of yellow fever mosquitoes, not only made possible the building of the Panama Canal, but conquered the scourge of two centuries. Habana, Panama, the Transvaal, and the endemic regions of yellow fever in South America are only the best-known sites of his activities. Not only as a scientist, but as a leader of men and as the hero of two of the most successful campaigns against disease ever waged, does the name of Gorgas deserve to be held in honored memory.

Commenting on his death, the London Lancet wrote editorially:

He was the best known and most uniformly successful medical administrator not of his age alone but of any age, and his work is comparable only with that recorded of Moses. No sooner were discoveries made tracing an endemic disease to a source removable by rigid hygienic measures than the services of this master administrator were requisitioned to the farthest quarter of the globe to carry out such measures. And, as if by magic, the areas were cleansed and freed.

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